

REMARKS

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's determination that claims 1, 13 and 29-31 are allowable (Advisory Action, dated December 10, 2004, page 1, section 7).

Claims 3, 4, 9, 15, 16 and claims 19-28 have been canceled without prejudice.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended, and new claims 29-31 have been added.

Specifically, independent claims 1 and 13 have been amended, respectively, to incorporate the allowable subject matter of dependent claims 22 and 24. Therefore, claims 1 and 13 have been amended to have the same scope as dependent claims 22 and 24, respectively.

New independent claim 29 corresponds to dependent claim 23 written in independent form incorporating the subject matter of base claim 1. Therefore, new claim 29 has the same scope as claim 23.

New independent claim 30 corresponds to dependent claim 25 written in independent form incorporating the subject matter of base claim 13. Therefore, new claim 30 has the same scope as claim 25.

New independent claim 31 corresponds to dependent claim 26 written in independent form incorporating the subject matter of base claim 1. Therefore, new claim 31 has the same scope as claim 26.

The present amendment adds no new matter to the instant application and raises no new issues.

Conclusion

Claims 1, 13 and 29-31 are allowable for the reasons of record (See Advisory Action, dated December 10, 2004). Claims 2, 8 and 10-12 all depend either directly or

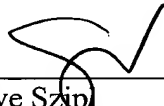
indirectly on allowable claim 1, and are likewise allowable. Claims 14 and 18 depend on allowable claim 13, and are likewise allowable.

For all of the above reasons, claims 1, 2, 8, 10-14, 18 and 29-31 are in condition for allowance and a prompt notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Questions are welcomed by the below signed attorney of record for the Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

GRIFFIN & SZIPL, PC



Joerg-Uwe Szip
Reg. No. 31, 799

GRIFFIN & SZIPL, PC
Suite PH-1
2300 Ninth Street, South
Arlington, VA 22204
Telephone: (703) 979-5700
Facsimile: (703) 979-7429
Customer No.: 24203